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Blaydon

Urban District Council

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year ending 31st December, 1958

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY 1958.

Medical Officer of Health :

JAMES TAYLOR, O.B.E., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.&H.

Senior Public Health Inspector :

GEORGE E. RENWICK, M.S.I.A.

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

WILSON JOYCE, M.S.I.A.

1 Vacancy.

Pupil Public Health Inspector :

THOMAS GIBSON

Public Health Clerk :

BRENDA WEGG

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Blaydon-on-Tyne,
15th July, 1959.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Blaydon.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1958.

The vital statistics show little variation, with the exception of Infantile Mortality which rose from 18 to 36 per 1,000 live births. The causes of these deaths are tabulated later in the report.

Cardiovascular disease was once again the commonest cause of death with 168 cases with Cancer coming second with 60, of these 60 - 11 (all male) were cancer of the lung and bronchus. The only death from infectious diseases in 1958 was one from syphilitic disease. This is the first year in which tuberculosis was not shown as a cause of death.

Infectious disease incidence was low, the only disease showing an increase being whooping cough with 55. Dysentery fell from 263 to 21.

Clearance of unfit houses under the 5 year plan continued. Up to the end of 1958, 539 unfit houses had been dealt with.

The Food Hygiene Regulations have received some attention but the continuing shortage of staff limited the scale of operations.

Atmospheric pollution received increasing attention and a volumetric gauge was installed in November.

I am grateful to the County Medical Officer and other County Council departments for information contained in this report.

Thanks are also due to the Senior Public Health Inspector of Blaydon and his staff for assistance in compiling this report and willing co-operation during the year. The Clerk and other Officers of the Council have also contributed in their various ways.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

The acreage is 9,325.

Present density of population is 3.28 persons per acre.

Highest density of population (in 1925) was 3.96 persons per acre.

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of our mid-1958 civilian population is 30,600, an increase of 160 on last year.

At the 1931 census the population stood at 32,248.

At the 1951 census the population stood at 30,791.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1958 was 9,841.

The density of persons per house was therefore 3.115.

Comparability factors:—

Births	0.96
Deaths	1.23

Rateable Value

The rateable value of the District, as at 31st December, 1958, was £229,903 excluding Freight Transport and Electrical Hereditaments. The rateable value per head of population was £7-10-3 and the estimated product of a 1d. rate was £1,021.

Industries of the District.

These are chiefly mining and anciliary industries for production of coke and other by-products. There are also Iron and Steel Engineering Works, Iron Foundries and Chemical Works. Blaydon is also a Railway Centre with large Locomotive Sheds.

Agriculture - chiefly Dairy Farming - is an important industry in the area.

Physical Features

Hilly area, Blaydon and Rowlands Gill lie low, Winlaton and Chopwell high. The rivers Tyne and Derwent form parts of the boundary.

Vital Statistics for the Year, 1958.

Births

Total Live Births	497	261M	236F
Total Legitimate Births ...	488	258M	230F
Total Illegitimate Births ...	9	3M	6F
Total Still Births	8	6M	2F

This gives a Live Birth Rate of 16.24 per 1,000 population compared with 16.68 in 1957 and a Still Birth Rate of 0.26 per 1,000 population (1957 - 0.48).

Live Birth Rate for Blaydon	16.24
Live Birth Rate for Administrative County ...	18.60
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales	16.40

Deaths

The total number of deaths recorded during the year was 335 (190 males and 145 females). This gives a death rate of 10.94 per 1,000 population compared with 11.20 in 1957.

Death Rate for England and Wales	11.7
Death Rate for Administrative County	11.3

Cardiovascular disease was once again the most common cause of death with 168 cases. Cancer was second with 60 of which 11 (all Male) were cancer of lung and bronchus. This year 3 deaths from leukaemia were recorded.

Infantile Mortality

Total deaths of infants under one year of age in 1958 was 18 (male 10 and female 8) of which 16 (male 10 and female 6) occurred during the first four weeks of life.

The Infantile Mortality Rate is 36 per 1,000 live births (1957 - 18).

The Infantile Mortality Rate for the Administrative County is 25.0 per 1,000 live births.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales is 22.5 per 1,000 live births.

Causes of Infantile Deaths

Prematurity	9
Congenital Deformities	2
Birth Injury	1
Antepartum Bleeding	1
Neonatal Hepatitis	1
Pulmonary Atelectasis	1
Pulmonary Heamorrhage	1
Bronchitis	1
Pneumonia	1
Total	18

Tuberculosis

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis . This compared with a total of three deaths from Tuberculosis in 1957.

Death Rate from all forms of Tuberculosis was Nil.

County Death Rate from all forms of Tuberculosis was 0.12 per 1,000 population.

England and Wales - Death Rate from all forms of Tuberculosis was 0.10 per 1,000 population.

New cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year numbered 16 Pulmonary (males 12, females 4) and 2 Non-Pulmonary (2 females). In 1957, 17 cases of Pulmonary and 3 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified.

Ambulance Facilities

Durham County Council provide the Ambulance Service for the Administrative County.

Three Depots — Consett, Stanley and Winlaton serve the Blaydon District. Night services (8 p.m. to 8 a.m.) operate from Stanley only.

The vehicles at Consett and Winlaton operate on general service duties and can be used to answer emergency calls.

District Nursing

The County Council is the responsible Authority under Section 25 of the National Health Service Act for the provision of a Home Nursing Service. Any requests for a Home Nurse should be made to the Nurse resident in the district or to the County Medical Officer's Superintendent of Home Nursing.

Treatment Centres and Clinics

Clinics for school children, maternity and child welfare are provided by the County Council at various centres throughout the district.

Dental and sun-ray treatment are available for mothers and children at the Axwell Park, Blaydon, Clinic which is the main centre in the district.

Hospital Provision

The provision of Hospital, Sanatorium and Maternity Home accommodation is the responsibility of the Newcastle upon Tyne Regional Hospital Board.

National Health Service Act, 1946.

No. 1 Area (Blaydon, Ryton and Whickham Urban Districts) Sub-Committee of the County Health Committee deals with the undermentioned services:—

(a) Health Centres.
(b) Maternity and Child Welfare.
(c) Midwifery.
(d) Health Visitors,
(e) Home Nursing.
(f) Vaccination and Immunisation.
(g) Ambulances.
(h) Prevention of Illness and Care and After-Care of Sick Persons.
(i) Domestic Help.

Infectious Diseases

Cases of Infectious Diseases are removed to the Sheriff Hill Infectious Diseases Hospital or to the Walkergate Hospital.

In the event of Smallpox occurring in the district such cases would be treated at the Langley Park Hospital.

Venereal Disease

These are treated at the Venereal Diseases Clinic, City Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Prevalence of and Control Over Infectious Diseases.

The only cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year were :—

Scarlet Fever	... ...	7	(Male 6 Female 1)
Measles	... ...	16	(Male 3 Female 13)
Whooping Cough	...	55	(Male 26 Female 29)
Pneumonia	... ...	2	(Male 1 Female 1)
Dysentery	... ...	21	(Male 10 Female 11)

Diphtheria Prophylaxis.

Under 1 year	....	...	...	283
1 - 4 years	...	...	...	80
5 - 14 years	...	...	...	36
		Total		399

Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

2 Injections — 1821 — M 934.
F 887.
1 Injection — 85 — M 45.
F 40.

Food Poisoning, 1958.

In an outbreak two cases were notified, but of these none were bacteriologically positive. The food suspected (Bath Chap) showing the presence of Staphylococci. A single case notified later was bacteriologically positive (Staphylococcus).

Laboratory Facilities.

All specimens for bacteriological examination are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Pathological Institute, General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, 4, by arrangement with the Durham County Council. They are examined free of cost to both practitioners and patients.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1958

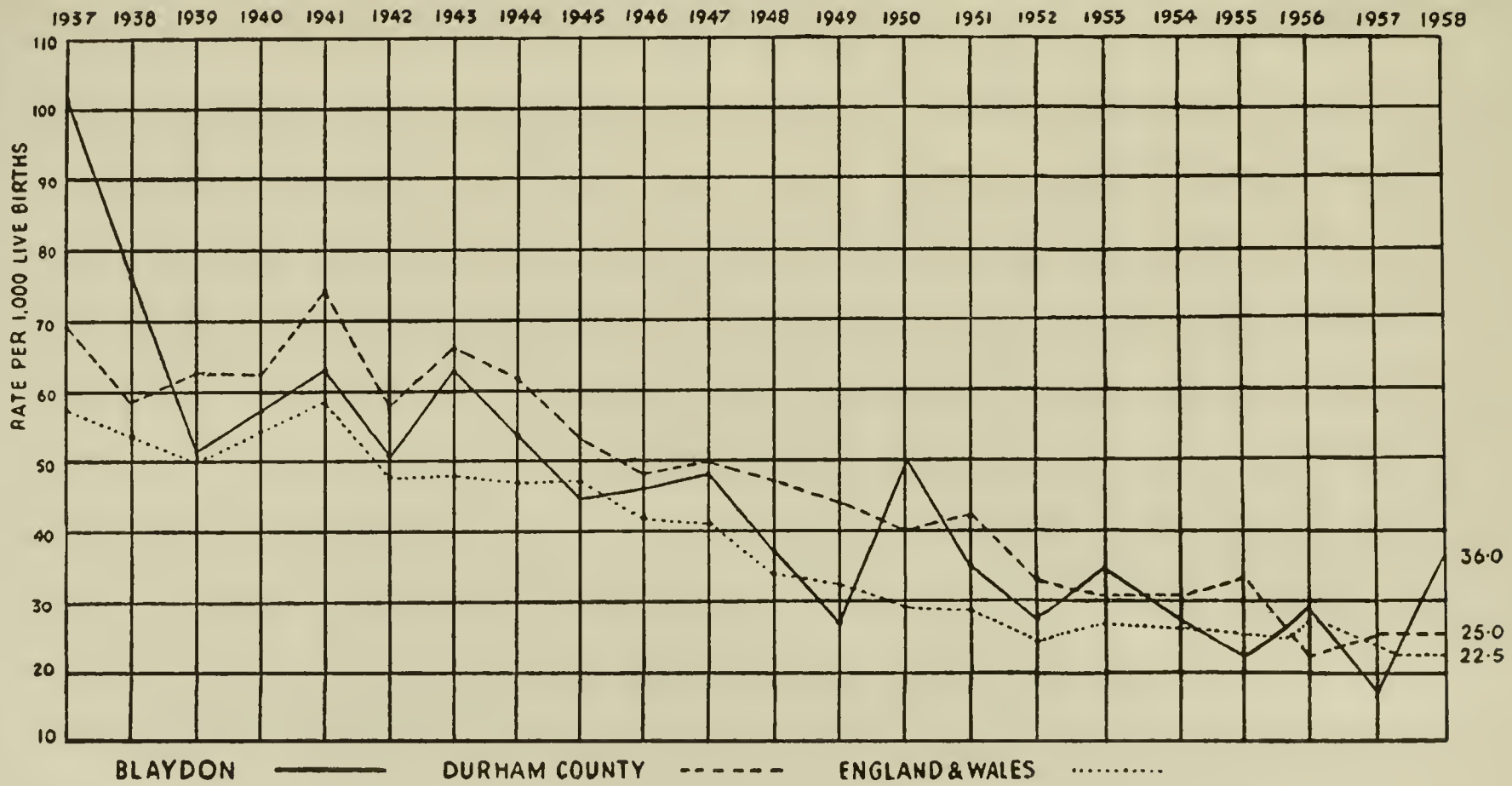
Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 yr.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 14	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 24	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
25 — 34	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 — 44	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 — 54	4	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
55 — 64	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	12	4	—	2	—	—	—	—

No deaths from Tuberculosis.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during 1958.

DISEASE	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED	CASES ADMITTED TO I.D. HOSPITALS	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE
Scarlet Fever	7	—	7	—
Whooping Cough	55	—	55	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Measles	16	—	16	—
Acute Pneumonia	2	—	2	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis				
Paralytic ...	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic ...	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis Infective ...	—	—	—	—
Post Infections	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	21	—	14	7
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fevers ...	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	3	—	1	2
Tuberculosis - Respiratory ...	16	10	16	—
Tuberculosis - Meninges and C.N.S. ...	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Other Forms ...	2	—	2	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—
Chicken Pox	—	—	—	—

Graph comparing Infantile Mortality Rate for Blaydon, Durham County, England and Wales since



Infectious Diseases

Analysis of Positive Cases into Age Groups.

Disease	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-19 years	20-34 years	35-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	—	2	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Whooping Cough	5	9	6	7	6	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	55
Measles	—	1	5	—	4	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	16
Dysentery	1	—	3	—	—	7	—	—	2	1	—	—	14
Para-Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis—Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
Totals	6	11	16	7	10	40	—	—	3	1	—	1	95

Registrar General's Short List of Causes of Death during 1958.

Causes of Death	Males	F'males
1. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	—	—
2. Other Forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	1
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infection	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Disease	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach ...	7	4
11. Malignant Neoplasm - Lung Bronchus ...	11	—
12. Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	—	7
13. Malignant Neoplasm - Uterus	—	2
14. Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	20	9
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	2
16. Diabetes	—	2
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	34	30
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	23	18
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	4	7
20. Other Heart Disease	16	14
21. Other Circulatory Disease	10	12
22. Influenza	3	—
23. Pneumonia	3	5
24. Bronchitis	21	9
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	—	—
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	3	1
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	—	—
29. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	2
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	1	1
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases ...	13	14
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	1
34. All Other Accidents	10	4
35. Suicide	3	—
36. Homicide and Operations of War ...	1	—
Totals ...	190	145

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA. REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Water Supply

All houses in the district are supplied with good quality water piped direct to each house from the Water Companies' mains. The township of Blaydon is supplied by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company. The supply is continuous and plentiful. The remainder of the district is supplied by Durham County Water Board.

Drainage and Sewerage

During the year the work in connection with Whisky Bridge Sewage Works and the extension of Ladysmith Works was completed.

Closet Accommodation

Sanitary Accommodation	Number at 31-12-57	Increase or Decrease during the year					Number at 31-12-58
		By Conversion	By Improvement	By New Houses	Discontinued, Houses Demolished, etc.	Total Increase or Decrease	
Water Closets	11621	—	+ 11	+ 139	−103	+47	11668
Ash Closets	263	–	–	–	−50	−50	213
Privy Middens	14	–	–	–	-1	−1	13

Collection and Disposal of Household Refuse.

In certain parts of the district where houses are occupied by miners and where there is a large amount of refuse, two collections per week are made. In all other parts of the district a weekly collection is made.

Six collecting vehicles are in use, five on regular rounds and one spare.

26 men are regularly employed on Collection, 3 on Disposal and 1 Foreman is in charge of the whole district.

2 vehicles, 2 drivers, 10 loaders and 1 tip man are based at and operate from each of two depots — Winlaton and Chopwell. One vehicle, a driver and 2 loaders, based at Winlaton, operates in all parts of the district cleansing ash closets and outlying premises.

Summary of Sanitary Defects and Nuisances Remedied
General Summary

	No. of Inspections	No. of Informal Notices Served	No. of Statutory Notices Served	Defects Remedied after Notice	Legal Proceedings and General Remarks
Housing:—					
Public Health and Housing Acts	1488	180	—	166	—
Overcrowding	4	4	—	4	—
Sanitary Conveniences:—					
Insufficient	45	10	—	10	—
Defective	76	19	—	18	—
Drainage	145	75	—	74	—
Water Supply	34	16	—	16	—
Food Premises	23	—	—	—	—
Shops Act	358	3	—	3	—
Dairies	4	—	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses:—					
Public	—	—	—	—	—
Private	208	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, etc.	3	3	—	3	—
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—	—
Factories and Workplaces ..	57	3	—	3	—
Keeping of Animals	3	1	—	1	—
Insanitary Ashpits & Receptacles	219	219	—	219	—
Offensive Accumulations ...	2	2	—	2	—
Smoke Nuisances	4	2	—	2	—
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	427	—	—	—	—
Total	3100	537	—	521	—

Offices

Offices have been visited and action taken where necessary.

Camping Sites

There are no licensed camping sites in the district.

Picture Halls

The 6 Picture Halls in the district have been visited and any necessary action taken.

Swimming Baths

There are no swimming baths in the area.

Factories Act, 1937 - 1948.

57 visits were made to premises under the Factories Act and 10 cases where contraventions of the Acts and Regulations were found, informal action was taken with satisfactory results.

Bakehouses

The 4 Bakehouses in the distrct have been regularly visited and premises and personnel examined. The need for constant vigilant care in handling food was stressed to all personnel.

Housing

The Programme for the clearance of unfit houses was continued and during the year the Blaydon (High Spen) Clearance Order, 1958, comprising 86 houses was confirmed without modification.

22 Clearance Areas followed by the making of 15 Compulsory Purchase Orders, and 1 Clearance Order, dealt with 101 houses in Winlation.

Demolition Orders were made on 14 individual unfit houses.

Closing Orders were made on 3 individual unfit houses.

Plans for improvement were approved of on 3 individual unfit houses.

The re-housing of displaced families from unfit houses proceeded according to schedule.

Tabular Statement for Year 1958.

New Houses Completed During Year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority ...	77	—	77
(b) By any other Housing Authority	—	—	—
(c) By Private Persons	—	62	62
Total	77	62	139

Closing and Demolition of Houses

A. Formal Action.

i.	Number of Houses demolished during the year as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action	68
ii.	Number of Houses closed but not demolished as a result of formal action	1
iii.	Number of Houses in Clearance Areas and individual unfit houses demolition of which temporarily postponed	Nil
iv.	Number of Houses in use as temporary accommodation (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, Part 1)	Nil

B. Informal Action.

i.	Number of Houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included above	Nil

ii. **Re-conditioning and Repair**

Number of Houses made fit during year by procedure under Housing acts (excluding temporary accommodation) or Public Health Acts:—

(a)	As a result of Informal Action	113
(b)	By owners as a result of Statutory Notice ...	Nil
(c)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

Improvement Grants — Housing Act, 1949.

		Number of Separate Houses
(a)	Applications submitted to Local Authority	Nil
(b)	Applications rejected by Local Authority	Nil
(c)	Total number of applications approved since inception of scheme	Nil

Number of Houses in the District

Blaydon Ward	2886
Winlaton Ward	2594
Rowlands Gill Ward	1839
High Spen Ward	734
Chopwell Ward	1788
	9841

Slaughter Houses

Three privately owned Slaughter Houses are licensed but regular slaughtering takes place in only two of them. All animals slaughtered during the year were examined after slaughter and where possible ante-mortem examinations were made.

For Tuberculosis

2 Heads and Tongues.

5 pairs Lungs

24lbs. Liver and Mesenteric Fat

Other Conditions Rendering Meat Unsound.

444lbs. Liver - - - - - -	Parasitic
84lbs. Liver - - - - -	Abscesses
6lbs. Liver - - - - - -	Cirrhosis
1 Pig's Pluck - - -	Pneumonia and Congestion
2 Pigs' Plucks - - -	Pleurisy and Cirrhosis
1 Sheep's Pluck - - - - - -	Parasitic
1 Sheep's Pluck - - - - -	Abscesses
1 Pair Lungs - - - - - -	Abscesses
1 Ewe Carcase and All Organs - -	Septicaemia
1 Head and Tongue - - - -	Acitnomycosis
80lbs. Hindquarter Beef - - - -	Bruising
12lbs. Forequarter Beef - - -	Decomposition
11lbs. Leg of Pork - - - - -	Bruising

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

	Cows	Cattle excluding Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	1	238	1	805	1 35
Number Inspected	1	238	1	805	135
All Diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	42	—	3	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	—	17·64%	—	0·49%	2·9%
Tuberculosis Only					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	7	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	2·9%	—	—	—
Cysticercosis					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

Food Inspection

The following quantities of food, found to be unsound were voluntarily surrendered and so disposed of as to prevent them being used for human consumption:—

	No. of Tins	Weight lbs.	Weight ozs.
Bacon	—	36	0
Sausage	—	14	0
Canned Meats.			
Ham	24	292	1
Other Canned Meats	104	264	5
Fruit	146	174	4
Vegetables	160	144	1
Milk	15	—	—
Soup	10	10	0
Fish	11	23	0
Sundries.			
Cheese	—	6	0
Cake	—	10	0
Sugar	—	4	0
Margarine	—	1	0
Milk Pudding	7	7	0

Registration of Premises under Section 14 Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Four Shops were registered for the sale and storage for sale of ice cream, bringing the total number registered up to 49.

Three premises are registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

Twenty-six premises are registered for the manfacture of and sale of preserved foods, etc.

Inspection of Food Premises

All premises where food is manufactured, prepared, stored, or sold have been inspected as often as possible during the year and 381 visits were made to these premises.

The standard of cleanliness in all food premises is improving and in the main the standard is fairly good. The shortage of staff is still reflected in the attention which is given to this class of premises in so far that the frequent and regular inspections which are necessary to maintain constant supervision over the premises and personnel engaged in handling food cannot be sustained.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-49.

Dealers' Licences

Pasteurised	23
Sterilised	55
Tuberculin Tested	20

Supplementary Licences

Pasteurised	1
Sterilised	1
Tuberculin Tested	1

Milk receiving depots and dairies have been visited and appropriate action taken.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

During the year dwelling houses, business premises and agricultural properties have been visited following complaint or in the course of survey under the above Act.

The Bi-annual treatments of sewers were carried out with satisfactory results.

Sewage works and refuse tips were treated at least three times in the course of the year and where necessary additional treatment was given. All other Council properties have been kept under observation and treatment given where necessary.

A. A. Fletcher and Son, Ltd.
Swalwell,